

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6 and 7 are herein amended.

Claim 5 is cancelled.

**Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 102(b)**

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawase (US 20060151854). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Kawase was published on July 13, 2006. Applicants' application has an effective filing date of November 7, 2003, based on its international filing date. As such, the present patent application was filed well before the publication of Kawase and therefore Kawase is not valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 102(b)**

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ota (US 6287371). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The cleaning agent of the presently claimed composition consists of each component of a) a chelating agent or a salt thereof shown by the following general formula (1), a hydroxide of an alkaline metal and pure water or b) a chelating agent or a salt thereof shown by the following general formula (1), a hydroxide of an alkaline metal, pure water and a buffering agent.

Moreover, the pure water feature of the presently claimed composition is water prepared by removing impure substances. The pure water does not inhibit the actions of the other components of the presently claimed liquid cleaner.

In contrast, Ota discloses a non-electrolytic gold plating liquid. The composition of Ota contains a water-soluble gold compound, a chelating agent or a salt thereof shown by the following general formula (1), a hydroxide of an alkaline metal, water and a buffering agent. Ota does not disclose pure water.

In order to have a valid anticipation rejection, the cited art must disclose each and every feature of the presently claimed composition. Ota does not disclose the pure water feature of the presently claimed composition. Since Ota does not disclose each and every feature of the claimed composition, Ota cannot be considered an anticipating reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

**Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 102(b)**

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Severson (US 4,537,706). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, a feature of the presently claimed composition is pure water. Severson does not render the presently claimed composition anticipated because Severson fails to disclose this feature.

Severson discloses a heavy-duty liquid detergent that contains, a water-soluble detergency builder, a chelating agent or a salt thereof shown by the following general formula (1), a hydroxide of an alkaline metal, water and a buffering agent. Severson does not disclose pure water.

In order to have a valid anticipation rejection, the cited art must disclose each and every feature of the presently claimed composition. Severson does not disclose the pure water feature of the presently claimed composition. Since Severson does not each and every feature of the claimed composition, Severson cannot be considered an anticipating reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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